

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS

AUTHORITY

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Title VII, Chapter 1

Philosophy

Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes a program of Independent Living. Kentucky has elected to participate in that program. Federal funds are available at a 90-10 match ratio of federal dollars to state dollars.

As a condition for receiving the funds, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Office for the Blind and the Statewide Independent Living Council must jointly develop and submit to federal officials an acceptable plan. The plan generally covers a three-year period and identifies the scope and extent of services to be provided during that period.

In order for the plan to be approved by federal officials, it must contain a design for a statewide network of IL centers developed by the IL Council. Centers must provide the core services of information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling and individual and systems advocacy. These services should result in identification of resources necessary for individuals to achieve their independent living goals.

Centers must promote and practice the independent living philosophy of:

- ◆ consumer control of the center regarding decision making, service delivery, management, and establishment of the policy and direction of the center;
- ◆ self-help and self-advocacy;
- ◆ development of peer relationships and peer role models; and
- ◆ equal access of individuals with significant disabilities to society and to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, whether public or private and regardless of the funding source.

Federal funds may also be used for individualized services. However, sufficient funding is unavailable to do both. Priority consideration is given to centers because they promote the advocacy that results in systems changes that make programs more responsive to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Eligibility

Independent Living services may be provided to any individual with a significant disability, as defined in section 7(21)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by contacting an Independent Living Center.

Some programs offered at the Independent Living Centers have other eligibility determination criteria as determined by the specific funding source.

Definitions

Consumer Control - The term "consumer control" means, with respect to an independent living center, that the center vests power and authority in individuals with disabilities. This is achieved in two significant ways. The first is the Board of Directors of the independent living center must be 51% individuals with disabilities. The second is the staff in decision-making positions must be 51% individuals with disabilities.

Independent Living Center (ILC) or Center for Independent Living (CIL) - The terms "independent living center (ILC) or center for independent living (CIL)" mean a consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services.

Independent Living Centers

Disabilities Coalition of Northern Kentucky
1032 Madison Avenue
Covington KY 41011
859-431-7668 (Voice/TDD)
859-431-7688 (Fax)
e-mail: dcnky@fuse.net

Center for Accessible Living
981 S Third Street Suite 102
Louisville KY 40203-2261
502-589-6620 (Voice)
502-589-3980 (Fax)
502-589-6690 (TDD)
e-mail: info@calky.org

Pathfinders for Independent Living
105 E Mound Street
Harlan KY 40831
606-573-5777 (Voice/TDD)
606-573-5739 Fax
e-mail address: pathfinders@harlanonline.net

Independence Place
824 Euclid Avenue Suite 101A
Lexington KY 40502
859-266-2807 (Voice/TDD)
859-335-0627 (Fax)
e-mail: independenceplace@qx.net

BEST Center for Independent Living
624 Eastwood Avenue
Bowling Green KY 42103
270-796-5992 (Voice/TDD)
270-796-6630 (Fax)
e-mail: bestcil@bestcil.org

Center for Accessible Living
1051 N 16th Street Suite C
Murray KY 42071
270-753-7676 (Voice)
270-753-7729 (Fax)
270-767-0549 (TDD)
e-mail: calmur@calky.org